



Blue Star Memorial Markers

Seventy years ago in 1944, NGC affiliated garden clubs in New Jersey planted eight thousand flowering Dogwood trees as a living memorial to the war veterans along a five mile stretch of Route 22. The New Jersey State Legislature subsequently designated this highway as the Blue Star Drive. The project was named for the blue star in the service flag, which hung in windows of homes and businesses during World War II in order to honor the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.



Service Banner/Flag

The following year, in 1945, the National Garden Clubs embraced this idea by establishing its first nationwide project known as the Blue Star Memorial Highway program. A ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state was envisioned, and a memorial marker was designed to identify the specifically designated Blue Star highways.



Today there are more than 70,000 miles of Blue Star Memorial Highways across the country.

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in cooperation with the State Legislature and the Florida State Road Department dedicated its first Blue Star Memorial Highway marker on May 30th, 1949 in Key West at the end of US 1.

The need for an extension of the Blue Star Memorial program to accommodate other than dedicated highways became apparent. As a result, a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was approved by the NGC in 1981. This marker is suitable for placing in areas such as parks, civic and historical grounds.



By-Way marker (Veterans Park, Stuart)

Today, some 3,000 Blue Star Memorial markers have been dedicated all across the country. Over 160 of the markers have been installed in the state of Florida.

These markers continuously pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the brave members of our Armed Forces on our behalf.